

REMARKS

Claims 21-33 are pending in this application. Claims 21, 23, 27, and 29 are amended. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request the favorable consideration and allowance of claims 21-33.

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Sugimoto et al. (US Patent No. 4,803,349). The Examiner takes the position that Sugimoto teaches or suggests all the features recited in claims 21-33. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The present invention as claimed in claim 21 provides a control circuit that detects a second condition wherein the output of the detector is reduced to substantially zero or is lowered which is indicative of slowing down of the magnetic card, and after the control circuit detects the second condition, the card transferring is driven to take in the magnetic card.

Sugimoto is directed to a card read/write device having an inlet sensor disposed at a card insertion inlet, a shutter which opens in response to the detection signal from the inlet sensor, a transportation mechanism driving sensor disposed backwardly of the shutter, a card transportation mechanism disposed backwardly of the second mentioned sensor for transporting the inserted card backwardly and a card information read/write means disposed within the card transportation mechanism, characterized in that when the trailing end of the card passes past the transportation mechanism sensor in the case of returning the card, the card transporting mechanism is deactivated and when the transportation mechanism is deactivated and when the transportation mechanism driving sensor is turned on again under these conditions.

However, Sugimoto does not teach or suggest a control circuit that detects a second condition wherein the output for the detector is reduced to substantially zero or is lowered which is indicative of slowing down of the magnetic card, and after the control circuit detects the second condition, the card transferring mechanism is driven to take in the magnetic card. Rather, Sugimoto discloses a control circuit that detects only when the sensor 3 is turned on and the sensor 5 is turned on. In other words, Sugimoto does not teach or suggest a second condition as claimed in the present application. Specifically, Sugimoto does not teach or suggest that the output of the detector is reduced to substantially zero or is lowered which is indicative of slowing down of the magnetic card.

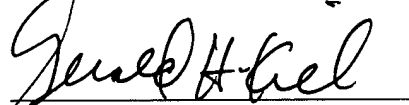
Since Sugimoto only detects when the sensors 3 and 5 are turned on, Sugimoto does not detect the slowing down of the magnetic card. Thus, Sugimoto fails to teach a control circuit that detects a condition that is indicative of slowing down of the magnetic card. Therefore, Applicants submit that Sugimoto fails to teach or suggest all the features recited in claims 21, 27, and 29. Accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21, 27, and 29.

With regard to claim 23, the present invention provides a shutter controller coupled to an output of the detector which opens the card guiding path by driving the shutter after the shutter controller detects that the movement of the magnetic card is restricted by the shutter through the detector output. As mentioned above, Sugimoto discloses a control circuit that detects only when the sensor 3 is turned on and the sensor 5 is turned on. In other words, Sugimoto does not teach detecting the movement of the magnetic card. As a result, the control circuit of Sugimoto does not detect the movement of the magnetic card being restricted by the shutter. In addition, in Sugimoto, the card insertion can be stopped by the shutter when the card is inserted quickly. However, when the card is inserted slowly, the card is not stopped by the shutter because the control circuit of Sugimoto is not provided with detecting whether the magnetic card is stopped or not. Therefore, it is submitted that Sugimoto fails to teach or suggest the features recited in claims 23. Accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claims 22, 24-26, 28 and 30-33 are dependent upon claims 21, 23, 27, and 29. Therefore it is submitted that for at least the reasons mentioned above, claims 22, 24-26, 28, and 30-33 recite patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants also request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22, 24-26, 28, and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald H. Kiel", written over a horizontal line.

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